

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

020629Z Oct 03

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 COLOMBO 001713

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SA, SA/INS; NSC FOR E. MILLARD

PLEASE ALSO PASS TOPEC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10-02-13

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EAID](#) [PREF](#) [CE](#) [LTTE](#)

SUBJECT: Tokyo co-chairs agree on modalities for review of peace process

Refs: Colombo 1708, and previous

(U) Classified by Ambassador Jeffrey J. Lunstead.
Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

1. (U) Tokyo process co-chairs (Japan, EU - Italy, and EC, Norway and US) met October 1 for briefing on EU Troika meeting in New York on Sept 25 with PM Wickremesinghe. New information from briefing was that:

--Italian Foreign Minister Frattini, on behalf of EU, formally offered to host next round of peace talks in Rome

--EC Commissioner for External Relations Patten plans to visit Sri Lanka Nov 25-26 to discuss "monitoring and human rights."

2. (SBU) Norwegian Ambassador Brattskar jumped at mention of "monitoring," perceiving that this might be an infringement of Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission issues. Ambassador Lunstead said that Tokyo Declaration stated (para 18) that "the international community intends to review and monitor the progress of the peace process closely." Brattskar appeared mollified. Lunstead then noted that para 20 of Tokyo Declaration stated further with regard to reviewing and monitoring the peace process that "in implementing its own assistance programs, the donor community intends to take into careful consideration the results of these periodic reviews," and that "with full regard to the position of Norway as the facilitator, Japan, in cooperation with the US and the EU, will undertake necessary consultations to establish the modalities for this purpose." He wondered, being new in town, what had been done for this purpose. He suggested that a working-level working group be set up to take on this task, reviewing progress in the peace process according to the milestones laid out in para 18 of Tokyo. This would be especially useful since the Sept 12 Tokyo follow-up meeting had agreed that another follow-up meeting would be held at year's end, and that a monitoring and review meeting would be held preceding the Consultative Group meeting at mid-2004. This complicated question would need to be staffed up in a systematic way.

3. (SBU) Japanese Ambassador Ichiguro (call me "Itchy") resisted this idea. He advocated that co-chair Ambassadors could do this work themselves or, as a last resort, could "bring a working-level person along to Ambassadorial meetings." Persistent pressure from US and EU finally persuaded him. It was agreed that a working group would be set up with all major bilateral donors initially participating, with multilateral institutions perhaps participating later. Itchy insisted, however, that this could only move forward after being blessed by all major donor Ambassadors, and that he could not convene a meeting to do this until October 21. Participants agreed to this meeting. Norwegian Ambassador noted that Norway's position was different from other co-Chairs, as Norway was a facilitator and peace monitor, and that it therefore would have to think about whether or in what capacity it might participate in the working group.

4. (C) COMMENT: This was actually a carefully-scripted encounter which US and EU had worked out beforehand. There is great unhappiness here in Colombo at Japanese unwillingness to coordinate with others on follow-up to Tokyo. This was seen clearly in the Akashi visit and Tokyo follow-up meeting last month, where the Japanese announced the meeting on short notice and tried to get other donors to accept in toto documents prepared in Tokyo without prior consultation. We seem now to have agreement on a process to avoid a recurrence of that situation. We will have USAID and Political Section both participate in Working Groups.

5. (SBU) COMMENT (continued): On the morning of October 2 donors received a letter from the GSL Peace

Secretariat stating that, as a follow-up to Tokyo

SIPDIS

Process, the GSL was setting up two committees: The Donor Assistance Coordinating Committee (DAAC) and the Programme Management Committee. First meeting of both to be held October 6. These committees might well be useful, if structured properly, but Government action in setting them up without prior consultation is disturbing. And it probably would not have happened if the Japanese Embassy here, which is supposed to be managing the process, had done its job and not left a vacuum. Our position at the Monday meeting will be that any new structures will need to be approved by donors before they are set up.

16. (U) ACTION FOR TOKYO: We understand that Itchy's successor was recently approved by the Cabinet, and that he is the MFA man at JICA. Would appreciate any information Embassy might have on him.

17. (U) Minimize considered.

LUNSTEAD